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Interdisciplinary approach stressed in water resources management

CHENNAI: Speakers at a meeting organised by Centre for Water Resources (CWR) on Monday called for an interdisciplinary approach in water resources management and for imparting training to young professionals to meet new challenges.

The workshop on “Interdisciplinary Education in Water Resources Management: Scope and Challenges,” was held to highlight the importance of integrated water resources management (IWRM) in education, research and in practice at National and South Asia level and how to make use of the IWRM graduates and their research outputs and explore new partnerships with interested institutions for further follow-up of IWRM training and research.

Delivering the inaugural address, Anna University Registrar S. Shanmugavel said that it was time to put a cap on development plan, appreciate natural resources and use them sparingly for the benefit of everyone.

“Due to the developmental plan and growth pattern, we are not able to store water to the extent we require. It is time we should think, whether we should indulge in degradation to environment and create hurdles in storing water.”

In his special address, Anna University Director CWR and Head of Department Civil Engineering, K. Karunakaran called for a paradigm shift from that of a compartmentalised mono-disciplinary approach to that of integrated multidisciplinary approach involving various stakeholders.

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Police outpost set up at TNAU

To strengthen the internal security of the campus



Round-the-clock vigil: Commissioner of Police C. Sylendra Babu (left) opening a police outpost at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in Coimbatore on Monday. Vice-Chancellor P. Murugesha Boopathi (second left) is in the picture.

COIMBATORE: A police outpost was inaugurated at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) by City Police Commissioner C. Sylendra Babu on Monday.

It will operate from a building located near Gate No. 7 facing the Botanical Garden and will be manned by a Sub-Inspector and two constables. The outpost was set up in response to the university's request.

According to Vice-Chancellor P. Murugesha Boopathi, the out-post was set up to strengthen the internal security of the campus.

“Our campus is very vast. It houses students' hostels, guest houses, trainee hostels and various other facilities. There are also very expensive laboratory and farm equipment,

and machinery. A large number of vehicles are also parked within the university. Under such circumstances, it was felt necessary to have round-the-clock security,” the Vice-Chancellor said.

Since TNAU performed the triple functions of education, research, and extension, students, scientists, administrative staff, and farm labourers, worked in large numbers in the campus.

There were also frequent visits by dignitaries from other parts of the country and the world. Hence, the need for the outpost, Mr. Boopathi added.

The out-post was inaugurated in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) P. Nagarajan.

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5,41,212 benefitted from agricultural labourers' welfare board's schemes

Special camps to be conducted to include more families: K. P. Ramalingam, chairman



Need based:K.P. Ramalingam, Chairman of Agricultural Labourers Welfare Board, handing over assistance to a beneficiary in Courtallam on Monday.

TIRUNELVELI: Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 446 crore has been disbursed to 5,41,212 beneficiaries by the Agricultural Labourers' Welfare Board under various schemes ever since it was established, K.P. Ramalingam, chairman of the board, has said.

Addressing a function held at Courtallam on Monday to distribute welfare measures to the tune of Rs. 36.69 lakh to 429 families, Mr. Ramalingam said identity cards to 75,73,643 families had been given and hence 1,73,00,761 members of these families had been registered in the Agricultural Labourers' Welfare Board.

As the board was extending assistances for marriage of the members and their children, old age pension to farmhands, aid for natural and accidental deaths, educational and maternity assistance etc., Rs. 446 crore had been disbursed to 5,41,212 beneficiaries across the State except Chennai.

In Tirunelveli district, Rs. 13.37 crore had been handed over to 21,934 beneficiaries ever since the scheme was launched on December 22, 2006.

“Through the 3,05,080 families registered with the welfare board in Tirunelveli district, 6,03,553 have become members. Moreover, special camps are to be conducted to include more families,” Mr. Ramalingam informed.

District Collector M. Jayaraman, District Revenue Officer P. Ramanasaraswathi, Cheranmahadevi Sub-Collector K. Veeraraghava Rao and vice-chairman of the board K. Chellamuthu were also present on the occasion.



Press Trust Of India

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Govt should decontrol Bt Cotton seed prices: ABLE

The Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) today demanded that the government should decontrol prices of Bt cotton seeds, which may bring down the prices in the coming days through open and fair competition.

"Pricing should be fair and based on the market dynamics. The government should not have any say on this. A decontrolled regime can actually bring down the Bt cotton seed prices," ABLE Executive Council Member K K Narayanan said.

Narayanan, also the Managing Director of Bangalore-based bio-tech seed firm Metahelix Life Sciences, said that decontrolling of seed prices can inspire the manufacturers to invest further on research and development, which will help farmers to get better quality seeds, newer technologies and at competitive rates.

"Since 2006, some state governments have been controlling and reducing MRP of seeds with Bt cotton technologies, thereby exercising indirect control on technology fees resulting in significant loss of research investments and industry value erosion," he said.

"This has adversely impacted innovation and a competitive environment. A business inviability is staring in our face," Narayanan added.

He claimed that while prices of most seeds have gone up by 42-120 per cent in last four years, Bt Cotton seed prices have declined by 13 per cent for single gene technology and by 43 per cent for double gene technology.

Since the introduction of Bt Cotton, India's average seed cotton yields have gone up by over 63 per cent and bollworm control cost has become near zero contributing directly to the net income, he said.

"The use of Bt Cotton has also helped the country to become the second largest producer in the world, after China, compared to a net importer in 2001," Narayanan said. India needs over 10,000 tonnes of cotton seeds in a year and uses 95 per cent hybrid variety of that, which are mostly Bt seeds.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/536092.aspx>

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By S M Arun

26 Apr 2010 03:49:00 AM IST

Thoothukudi farmers denied water for irrigation

THOOTHUKUDI: Farmers in Thoothukudi are a worried lot as the government has denied water supply for 24,211 acres in the district, affecting crops in many areas which were raised in anticipation of the water supply.

Cultivation in these southern districts takes place mainly in three seasons - Kar (June 15 to September 30), Pichanam (October 15 to March 31) and Advance Kar (April 1 to May 31). Of these three, Advance Kar is unique to Thoothukudi farmlands and has been practiced since the construction of the Papanasam dam. Lands that come under

Advance Kar cultivation will not be eligible for water supply during Kar irrigation. According to a GO, 46,107 acres in Thoothukudi are eligible for water supply under Advance Kar and this is the third successive year during which water has been denied. Nainar Kulasekaran, president of Tamiraparani River Protection Organisation told Express that in spite of adequate water storage in dams, farmers in Thoothukudi were forced to demand their right to get water. The practice of denying water to Thoothukudi for Advance Kar started in 2008 when the State government passed a GO asking the authorities to release water from Manimutharu dam to save crops in Tirunelveli district.

By Parveen Sikkandar

24 Apr 2010 05:57:00 AM IST

Cooling Koozhu

WE know that Irulas, the tribal community from Southern TamilNadu are hunters of snakes, rats and small animals.

We are much amused when they talk about Rat Kara Kozhumbu or snake pachadi but brand the same as exotic when shown in Travel and Living. I met S.

Rani at Etoor in Kanchipuram district who lives with her three children.

“I will give you the recipe of the energetic koozhu that I make for my family.

It is a bit different from the traditional ones and the Irulas have them on a daily basis” says Rani.

Ingredients:

- Ragi powder
- Broken rice
- Broken wheat
- Vegetables of your choice
- Butter milk
- Water

First mix the ragi powder in cold water and filter it. Now heat the mix on low heat until

partially cooked, add the broken rice and wheat and stir continuously. Once done pour some butter milk and add boiled vegetables like carrot or potato. A delicious porridge is ready. It tastes like soup and sans the veggies and butter milk the mixture will stay fresh even for two days without refrigeration! Rani now clears some doubts that I have on Rat cuisine. "We eat only those that are in the fields and not the ones found in gutters.

The meat is very similar to chicken and does not smell"- she says. I promised to taste some on my next trip. When is the year of the rat?

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Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Clear

Tuesday, Apr 27

Max Min

36.7° | 27.6°

Rain: 00mm in24hrs Sunrise: 05:51

Humidity: 34% Sunset: 18:23

Wind: Normal Barometer: 1008.1mb

Tomorrow's Forecast



Tstorm

Wednesday, Apr 28

Max Min

35° | 28°

Extended Forecast for a week

Thursday

Apr 29



Friday

Apr 30



Saturday

May 1



Sunday

May 2



Monday

May 3



36° | 28°

Sunny

36° | 28°

Partly Cloudy

34° | 28°

Tstorm

32° | 27°

Tshower

33° | 26°

Tstorm